



# CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



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SEPTEMBER, 2009

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD: 3RD. AVE. & HWY. 508 ONALASKA, WASHINGTON 98570

## GOD'S WIFE

An eye witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, Some years ago: A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, bare-footed, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!'



'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes, 'was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back Part of the store and, removing her gloves, and knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes.

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.'

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand

and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her. 'Are you God's wife?'

◆ Received from Hugh MacDonald

*This story reminds me of when I was a young boy going to elementary school in Seattle. I was a Crossing Guard and had the post on Dearborn Street. It was right in front of a Lumber Store. One day it was raining and I was standing on the corner getting my feet soaking wet. The owner of the Lumber Store came out and asked my why I didn't have any galoshes. (for those who are two young to know what galoshes are, they are boots you ware over your shoes).*

*I told him that I didn't have any galoshes, and my mother didn't have the money to buy any.*

*He gave me five dollars and told me he would be checking the nest day to see if I bought galoshes.*

*When he came out the next day I was proudly wearing my new galoshes.*

## THE LEANING BARN

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old deacon who always prayed, 'Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side.' After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, 'Well sir, you see, it's like this ... I got an old

barn out back. It's been there a long time; it's withstood a lot of weather; it's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years.

It's still standing. But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit.

So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall.

Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time.

I've withstood a lot of life's



storms. I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning at times.

Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't. So we need to pray, 'Lord, prop us up on our leaning side, so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify the Lord.'

◆ Hugh MacDonald

## VISITING DAY

He was looking forward to this moment all day long, after 6 days of labor and it finally arrived – Visiting Day! The man with the keys arrived to swing open the large, heavy doors. The cold gray hall springs to life in the warm glow of light. He



could hardly control His emotions.

The families began to arrive. He peers from the corner of the room longing for the 1st glimpse of His loved ones. He lives for the weekends. He lives for these visits. As the cars arrive, He watches intently. Then, finally, they arrive, for whom He would do anything. They embrace, eat a light lunch and reminisce how things used to be. At one point, they break into singing, with interruptions of laughter and applause.

But all too soon it is over. A tear comes to His eyes as they depart. Then the man with the keys closes the heavy doors. He hears the key turn in the lock marking the end of a special day. There He stands, alone again.

He knows that most of His visitors will not contact Him again till next week. As the last car pulls away from the parking lot, Jesus retreats into loneliness as He waits until next Sunday – Visiting Day.

Is the time that we spend with Jesus an everyday thing, or do we just visit Him on Sunday? Think about it.

◆ Received from Joe Downs

## DART TEST

A young lady named Sally relates an experience she had in a seminary class, given by her teacher, Dr. Smith. She says that Dr. Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons.

One particular day, Sally walked into the seminary and knew they were in for a fun day.

On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts. Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's friend drew a picture of who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased with the overall effect she had achieved.



The class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats. As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target. Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall.

Underneath the target was a picture of Jesus. A hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face and His eyes were pierced.

Dr. Smith said only these words.... *'In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.'*

**Matthew 25:40**

No other words were necessary; the tears filled eyes of the students focused only on the picture of Christ.

◆ Received from Joe & Freda Downs

## MOST CARING CHILD

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge... The purpose of the Contest was to find the most caring child.

The winner was: A four-year-old child, who's next door Neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his Wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old Gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there.

When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'



## ADOPTED

Teacher Debbie Moon's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair color than the other members. One of her students suggested that he was adopted. A little girl said, 'I know all about adoption, I was adopted.'

'What does it mean to be adopted?' asked another child.

'It means', said the girl, 'that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy!'

# ONALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

## STRESS

### SUNDAYS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM  
 MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM  
 EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM

### TUESDAYS

KID'S CLUB  
 3:30 - 4:30

### WEDNESDAYS

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP  
 MEET AT THE MASSEY'S  
 10:00 AM  
 SEPTEMBER 9th & 23rd

BIBLE STUDY  
 7:00 PM

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th

MEN'S BREAKFAST  
 8:00 AM

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th

ONALASKA FAMILY DAY  
 @  
 CARLISLE PARK  
 10:00 AM—4:00 PM

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
 9:00 AM

LADIES LUNCHEON  
 12:00 NOON

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th

ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT  
 6:30 PM

*Psalm 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16th

SENIORS ON THE GO  
 12:00 NOON

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 17th

AMERICAN LEGION  
 6:00 PM

## PASTOR'S VACATION



Pastor Lloyd and Kathleen will be on vacation from September 13 to September 20. Pastor Esther will be ministering in his place. Please pray for Pastor and Kathleen that God will bless them with a wonderful time of refreshment and relaxation.

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, 'How heavy is this glass of water?'

Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, 'The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes.'

He continued, 'And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on.'

'As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest.

*"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."* **1 Peter 5:7**

◆ Received from Joe Downs

## ONALASKA FAMILY DAY

On Monday, September 7, we will be joining with other churches of Onalaska to celebrate the family. We will be gathering at Carlisle Park at 10:00 AM. There will be a community picnic, a Pie Auction, a Labor Auction, a grape spitting contest, door prizes (even if there are no doors at the park). Games for the kids, a hay bale swimming pool, a nickel hunt, and a bouncing toy! We will be having various musical groups. Hamburgers, Hotdogs and all the trimmings, plus salads, deserts and plenty of good picnic food will be provided.



## FOUR LOVERS

Once upon a time, there was this girl who had four lovers --

She loved the 4th lover the most and adored him with rich robes and treated him to the finest of delicacies. She gave him nothing but the best.

She also loved the 3rd lover very much and was always showing him off to neighboring kingdoms. However, she feared that one day he would leave her for another.

She also loved her 2nd lover. He was her confidant and was always kind, considerate and patient with her. Whenever this girl faced a problem, she could confide in him, and he would help her get through the difficult times.

The girl's 1st lover was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining her wealth and kingdom. However, she did not love the first lover. Although he loved her deeply, she hardly took notice of him.

One day, after many years, the girl fell ill and she knew her time was short. She thought of her luxurious life and wondered, I now have four lovers with me, but when I die, I'll be all alone.

Thus, she asked the 4th lover, I loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?' 'No way!' replied the 4th lover and he walked away without another word. His answer cut like a sharp knife right into her heart.

The sad girl then asked the 3rd lover, 'I loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?' 'No!' replied the 3rd lover. 'Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to

marry someone else!' Her heart sank and turned cold.

She then asked the 2nd lover, 'I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?' 'I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!' replied the 2nd lover. 'At the very most, I can only walk with you to your grave.' His answer struck her like a bolt of lightning, and the girl was devastated.

Then a voice called out: 'I'll go with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go.' The girl looked up, and there was her 1st lover. He was very skinny as he suffered from malnutrition and neglect. Greatly grieved, the girl said, 'I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!

In truth, you have 4 lovers in



your lives:

Your 4th lover is your body. No matter how much time and effort you lavish in making it look good; it will leave you when you die.

Your 3rd lover is your possessions, status and wealth. When you die, it will all go to others.

Your 2nd lover is your family and friends. No matter how

much they have been there for you, the furthest they can stay by you is up to the grave.

And your 1st lover is your Soul. Often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the world. However, your Soul is the only thing that will follow you where ever you go. Cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now, for it is the only part of you that will follow you to the throne of God and continue with you throughout Eternity.

Thought for the day: Remember, when the world pushes you to your knees, you're in the perfect position to pray.

◆ Received from Joe Downs

## ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL

*"You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it."*

**Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1931 — 2005**

*"If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."*

◆ Ronald Reagan

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Last month's winner was Pastor Jeanne Hossler once again. The answer was found in **I Kings 16:34**. *Heil* built Jericho - laid the foundations at the cost of his first-born son, *Abiram*, the gates at the cost of his second son *Segub*.

Once again I'll try and stump you but I don't think I'll have much luck.

*They had a message to give to him,*

*I said I wanted to be the one,  
But then they chose another,  
And would not let me run.*

*"It is not fair," I said to him,  
"I'm faster don't you know,"  
I begged, cried and pleaded,  
And finely he let me go.*

*They saw me coming from afar,  
And they knew a message I did bring.*

*But when I reached his side  
I couldn't say a thing.*

*Although I reached him first  
There was nothing I could say  
And so I had to stand aside  
While the other one came his way.*

*It's a shame to run real fast  
And be the first to be there  
If you run without a purpose  
Your only wasting air.*

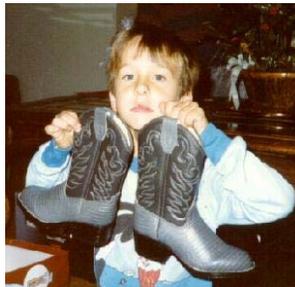
*Now tell the names of the ones  
who ran*

*The one they had to run to  
And the name of the one who  
sent them*

*There will be a candy bar for  
you.*

## COWBOY BOOTS

Did you hear about the Texas teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy



boots? He asked for help and she could see why.

Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked, and sure enough, they were.

It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time, on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots."

She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?", like she wanted to.

Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said, "They're my brother's boots. My mom made me wear 'em."

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But, she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on

his feet again.

Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?"

He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots."

She will be eligible for parole in three years.

◆ Received from Jim Sparks

## THE GRANDMA TEST

I was out walking with my 4-year-old granddaughter. She picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth. I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that.

'Why?' my Granddaughter asked.



'Because it's been on the ground; you don't know where it's been, it's dirty, and probably has germs,' I replied.

At this point, my granddaughter looked at me with total admiration and asked, 'Grandma, how do you know all this stuff? You are so smart.'

I was thinking quickly. 'All Grandmas know this stuff. It's on the Grandma Test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Grandma.'

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information. 'Oh....I get it!' she beamed, 'So if you don't pass the test you have to be the Grandpa'.

'Exactly,' I replied with a big smile on my face.

◆ Received from Jim Sparks